

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04583 212138Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 DHA-02 MC-02 AID-05 /103 W

-----024609 220533Z /20

R 212050Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6839

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANJOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 616

USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 4583

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR GT SHUM MASS BH UK UR

SUBJ: BELIZE AND ARMS SALES: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ON OCCASION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN DEFENSE COUNCIL (CONDECA) MEETING HERE JULY 20 (SEPTTEL), PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TOLD PRESS THAT THE USG USES "SUPPOSED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS" BY THE GOG AS A PRETEXT FOR NOT SELLING ARMS TO GUATEMALA, BUT THE REAL REASON IS THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT THE ARMS USED AGAINST ITS BRITISH "BROTHERS." PRESIDENT ADDED THAT THIS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE OF U.S. AFFINITY FOR GREAT BRITAIN, A NATO ALLY.

2. HOWEVER, U.S. UNWILLINGNESS TO SELL ARMS TO GUATEMALA DID NOT SIGNIFY "CRUMBLING" (DESQUEBRAJAMIENTO) OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, LAUGERUD WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID. BUT, "IT SHOULD NOT CAUSE SURPRISE IF GUATEMALA HAS RECOURSE
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TO THE SOVIET UNION" TO BUY THE ARMS IT NEEDS. HE RECALLED SOVIET SALES TO PERU UNDER LIKE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. LAUGERUD REAFFIRMED ARM'S WILLINGNESS TO GO TO WAR IN THE EVENT BRITAIN MOVES TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE UNILATERALLY TO BELIZE. HE ACCEPTED THE "LOGIC" OF A REFERENDUM ON BELIZE SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH LEAD TO AN

OUTCOME OTHER THAN FULL RECOVERY OF THE TERRITORY FOR
GUATEMALA. (REFERENDUM IDEA HAS BEEN BRUITED IN MEDIA IN
RECENT DAYS.)

4. LAUGERUD WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE PROMISED IMMEDIATE
INVOCATION OF THE RIO TREATY SHOULD "COMMONWEALTH" TROOPS
BE DISPATCHED TO BELIZE.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, SALES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770260-1075
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770734/aaaabdkg.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1794266
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TAGS: PBOR, SHUM, MASS, GT, BH, UK, UR
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